



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

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DRAFT MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

Date and Time of Meeting: November 13, 2014
11:00 a.m.

This meeting was Video Conference between the following:

Reno: Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living
999 Pyramid Way
Sparks, NV 89431
(775) 353-3599

Las Vegas: Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center
2820 W. Charleston Blvd., Suite 11
Las Vegas, NV 89102
(702) 257-8150

To join this meeting by phone, dial 1-888-251-2909 then enter the Access Code 8985078 when prompted to.

Minutes

- I. Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions
Lisa Bonie, Chairperson

Ms. Bonie was not able to attend, Mr. Bennett acted as chairperson in her absence.

A quorum being present, Mr. Bennett called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

Members Present: Reggie Bennett, Kacy Curry, Melaine Mason, Rade Zone.

Excused Members: Lisa Bonie

Public Present: Laura Dickey, Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center; Bob Donnelly, CARE Chest; Mary Evilsizer, Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living (SNCIL) ; Anita Frantz, Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center; Shelley Hendren, Administrator, Rehabilitation Division, Nevada Department of Education, Training and Rehabilitation; Samantha King, Nevada PEP; Jack Mayes, Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center

Aging and Disability Services Division Staff Present: Tina Gerber-Winn, Vicki Kemp, Diane Scully, Laura Valentine

- II. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)

Mr. Mayes wanted to let everyone know the Nevada Disability Advocacy Law Center offices in Reno and Las Vegas have relocated. An open house will be held at all their locations – Reno, Elko, Las Vegas – on December 5, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- III. Approval of the Minutes from the October 2, 2014 Meeting (For Possible Action)
Reggie Bennett, Acting Chairperson

Ms. Mason did not think Ms. Merrill attended the October 2 meeting. Ms. Scully said she will check into it and make the necessary correction.

Ms. Curry made a motion to accept the minutes as written with the one noted correction. Mr. Zone seconded. Motion carried.

- IV. Report on the IL-NET Leading Statewide Strategic Planning Webinar Session
Held on October 7, 2014
Lisa Bonie, Chairperson

Ms. Kemp said it is a great tool with lots of information on strategic planning, but added that she and Ms. Bonie had discussed strategic planning for the SILC, but decided it should wait until there are more members on the council.

Ms. Mason suggested the Power Point from the session be distributed to the SILC members. Ms. Scully will try to obtain a copy of it and send it to the members.

Ms. Mason said it touched briefly on the reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), that it impacts the SILC, Part B funds, CIL's, the State Plan, the relationship with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), and more. Ms. Gerber-Winn suggested, and Ms. Mason agreed, a presentation should be made at a meeting on the impacts, especially relating to the SILC. The new regulations went into effect on October 1, 2014. Ms. Kemp said she has been reading the document and anticipates a lot of questions and who will be addressing them. Ms. Mason said the Rehabilitative Services Administration (RSA) will provide guidance on changes in laws. Ms. Mason added that the

National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) has resources relating to what can be done now, and what regulations will be forthcoming. She noted the Older Blind program will be staying with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), but Independent Living (IL) will be going to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Mr. Mayes asked if it impacts who the Designated State Unit (DSU) is. Ms. Mason said it's up to the State to decide, and Part B funds can flow through them and be dealt with at a State level, not administrators. Mr. Mayes asked if the SILC needs to be concerned about this. Ms. Mason responded that Ms. Hendren will be talking to Jane Gruner, Administrator, ADSD, about this. Ms. Hendren noted the SILC may want to weigh in on this topic. Mr. Donnelly asked if it means the IL program will no longer be part of ADSD. Ms. Mason said it's up to the State to decide, but it doesn't necessarily mean it will be moved.

V. Report on Part B Funded Budget
Vicki Kemp, ADSD

There being nothing new to report at this time, Ms. Kemp said they expect to have more information by the next meeting.

VI. Presentation of Information Obtained at Class, "Expanding Housing Options for Persons with Disabilities: Housing Advocacy for CILs"
Laura Valentine, Chief, Disability Services

Ms. Valentine attended the month-long course through the IL-NET website and is still in the process of completing the coursework. She briefly went through the handouts (see attached), and expects to have more detailed information at the next meeting. What is important for community people to be aware of is there are housing initiatives and planning issues in every state, and the SILC needs to be involved in those processes and advocate for persons with disabilities. The Housing Division is willing to give a presentation or training on housing plans or the housing locator.

VII. Report on the Independent Living Program Monitor
Vicki Kemp, ADSD

Ms. Kemp said she and John Rosenlund, ADSD, are still working on the monitor report and should have information to present to the council at the next meeting. Ms. Mason added that the contractor, Cheri Abbott, just completed the 2013 report, and she is just starting to contact IL consumers for the 2014 report.

VIII. Presentation of Information Obtained at the Town Hall Meetings Discussing Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Jack Mayes, Executive Director, Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center

Mr. Mayes introduced Laura Dickey also from the Disability Advocacy and Law Center. Mr. Mayes started by explaining there were two sessions in Elko, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The morning session was well attended with standing room only, but the afternoon session only had a few people. It was the same in Sparks. They had three sessions in Las Vegas, two were in-person meetings and one was a call-in session.

The scenario was, if the State had \$500,000 for blind services, how would you like to see it used? The top three answers were the same in each location, although within those topics there were different issues:

1. Transportation – with issues differing depending on being in a rural or metropolitan area.
2. Orientation mobility – except in Las Vegas with the Blind Center and the National Federation of the Blind, there is nothing for people ages 22-55 who are newly blind.
3. Access to and training on new technologies – most people have to figure it out on their own.

Ms. Dickey noted issues not included in the handout (see attached): whether students can take their assistive technology (AT) devices with them when they leave high school (some districts allow it, others don't); people feel at risk when using streets and sidewalks, need to improve access, safety and white cane promotion, and on trash collection day, trash cans are in the way; para-transit services need to coordinate between cities and counties; lack of awareness of services available and how to access them (support groups, partnerships with other groups, use of newsletters); general lack of services especially in rural areas. There was good representation from the blind, various agencies, parents and family members, and advocates.

Mr. Mayes said from here the report will be shared with the Legislature. He noted Mo Dennis was the lead on this, but with the recent election he is no longer Senate Majority Leader, so it's uncertain if it will move forward or who will take it up. If the Legislature chooses not to fund this, the SILC should look at making it one of their priorities going forward.

Ms. Gerber-Winn asked how these concerns relate to the centers for independent living (CILs) and what they offer and have funds for. Ms. Evilsizer said the CILs are required to provide core services for all disabilities, including the blind, but nothing specific to a particular disability. The core services are: basic independent living skills training (they don't have staff or the expertise to provide specialized training); information and referrals; advocacy; peer counseling; transition from nursing home to community. Ms. Gerber-Winn said they need more specialization to have the CILs offer additional services. Mr. Mayes added it does fit in with the mission of the CILs, but like so many other programs, they are asked to do so much with so little. He suggested the possibility of using the blind services funding to pay for a blind services specialist in the north and south.

Ms. Kemp asked if the CILs put information such as an annual report on their website, other ADSD council have requested information on services offered and number of consumers served. Ms. Evilsizer said the RSA and the CILs have that information. She added that each CIL may provide additional services that would be tracked in a different report and to contact her for the SNCIL and Ms. Bonie for Northern Nevada, to ask for that. The RSA website is <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/rsa/index.html>. For information on IL programs: <https://rsa.ed.gov/programs.cfm?pc=il>

Mr. Mayes suggested this be brought up again as the 2015 Legislative Session gets underway.

Mr. Zone brought up safety concerns when traveling around Las Vegas. People wear dark clothing and it's hard to see them at night. He suggested they wear reflective vests or light colored clothes. Mr. Mayes said that's part of educating people who are newly blind. Mr. Bennett suggested reaching out to the Blind Center to help with this. Mr. Mayes said if funds are available they'd be happy to expand their services.

Ms. Mason wanted to explain that with VR funding there are specific guidelines on how it can be used. She said they do have mobility training, however, right now, it can only be done if the person is in a work training program or over 55 years old. They need to be in compliance with federal requirements, but could enter into a fee-for-service agreement. Mr. Donnelly asked if CARE Chest could do a fee-for-service with VR staff. Ms. Mason said yes, but a contract and fee structure would need to be developed, along appropriate scheduling of staff. Ms. Kemp said they need to look at AT for IL and if funds can be used that way.

- IX. Discussion and Possible Assignment of Tasks, of Current and Amended Goals in the Current State Plan for Independent Living, Including Who is Responsible, How They Will be Accomplished and Time Frames for Completion **(For Possible Action)**
Lisa Bonie, Chairperson
Vicki Kemp, ADSD

Ms. Kemp referred to the two Quick Look handouts (see attached). She noted the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) was sent to the federal government this week. Going forward ADSD and the SILC need to work together to accomplish the goals in the SPIL.

Ms. Mason said since there are only five members it's insufficient to move forward on this. Need to focus on increasing membership first. She suggested a standing agenda item to discuss what efforts are being put forth to recruit new members.

Ms. Mason also recommended breaking down the goals even further, into smaller segments of what needs to be done. Also, indicate the responsible entity clearly

shows who should take on the goal and if the public can help. She said the goals need to be more structured, include resources if there are any, and what ADSD staff can support, and if the SILC can assist.

Mr. Bennett asked if members could be provided with information on what type of persons can be part of the SILC. Ms. Scully will send that to the members.

Ms. Mason said there's a lack of leadership, ADSD is looking to the Council and the Council is looking to ADSD. It needs to be determined what can be done now and what can be put aside until they get additional members. Ms. Scully noted the councils are to direct ADSD.

Ms. Gerber-Winn said a work plan should be developed for each goal and objective, some are spelled out in the narrative, but some are not. The way she's understanding the conversation, ADSD should offer suggestions to the Council, then the Council will decide what to do.

Ms. Mason said she's looking for a report from ADSD with more direction, then the Council can decide from there. More detail, not just ADSD or SILC, list an individual or if work groups should be formed.

Mr. Zone said he's a volunteer whereas other Council members are paid, it's part of their job, therefore he doesn't feel that he should be doing as much. He doesn't see the need for more members that those in a paid position should do more. Ms. Scully read from the bylaws where it states the Council provides guidance to state agencies, ADSD supports the Council. Mr. Zone said he doesn't feel he should tell ADSD what to do, it's ADSD's job.

Mr. Bennett said as council members they all volunteer their time, but he feels he has a role as a disabled person to provide input and would like to see all the members speak up more often to those who put these programs into play.

Ms. Gerber-Winn asked if they should look into the old SPIL or the amended one recently submitted since the amendment has not been approved by the federal government. Mr. Bennett said an action plan should be put together for the upcoming meetings. Ms. Mason said to go forward with the amended SPIL.

X. **Public Comment** (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)

Ms. Evilsizer said the CILs have the capacity to provide adaptive equipment for telecommunications purposes to the deaf and blind.

Ms. Mason suggested a standing agenda item to update the council during the upcoming legislative session. This would include what the SILC is doing to be active during the session, ensure they are a proactive voice and collaborate with ADSD as their budget is discussed. She added that ADSD should work with Ms.

Bonie on strategy for input at the 2015 Legislative Session. Mr. Bennett asked if a member of the Commission could make a presentation to the SILC on Legislative issues. Mr. Mayes volunteered to share legislative updates with the SILC, since Commission members are not always available. Ms. Gerber-Winn said the CSPD and the Commission on Aging (COA) both have Legislative Subcommittees, and Sally Ramm, Elder Rights Attorney with ADSD, acts as the agency's Legislative liaison, and can provide reports and updates. Ms. Scully was asked to send minutes from these subcommittees to the SILC members. Mr. Mayes said on October 15, 2014 the State Department released the requested budgets. Jon Sasser, a member of the CSPD, follows the session closely and sends out updates, most recently a link to the DHHS website with information on the 2016-17 budget requests, that link is:

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dhhsnv.gov/content/About/DHHSBudgetHighlights.pdf>

- XI. Schedule Meeting Dates for 2015 – Proposed: January 8, March 12, May 14, July 9, September 10, November 12 **(For Possible Action)**
Reggie Bennett, Acting Chairperson

Since Ms. Bonie was unable to attend, the next meeting was scheduled for January 8, 2014 and any other dates will be determined at that meeting.

- XII. Adjournment **(For Possible Action)**
Reggie Bennett, Acting Chairperson

Mr. Bennett adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

NOTE: Items may be considered out of order. The public body may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The public body may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time. The public body may place reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of public comments but may not restrict comments based upon viewpoint

Current Independent Living Council Members

Lisa Bonie (Chairperson), Reggie Bennett, Kacy Curry, Melaine Mason, Rade Zone

NOTE: We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who have disabilities and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify Diane Scully at (775) 687-0551 as soon as possible and at least five days in advance of the meeting. If you wish, you may email her at dmscully@adsd.nv.gov. Supporting materials for this meeting are available at: 3416 Goni Road, #D-132, Carson City, NV 89706 or by contacting Diane Scully at (775) 687-0551 or by email at dmscully@adsd.nv.gov.

Agenda Posted at the Following Locations:

1. Aging and Disability Services Division, Carson City Office, 3416 Goni Road, Suite D-132, Carson City, NV 89706
2. Aging and Disability Services Division, Las Vegas Office, 1860 East Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104
3. Aging and Disability Services Division, Reno Office, 445 Apple Street, Suite 104, Reno, NV 89502
4. Aging and Disability Services Division, Elko Office, 1010 Ruby Vista Drive, Suite 104 Elko, NV 89801
5. Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living, 2950 S. Rainbow Blvd, #220, N. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146
6. Disability Resources, 50 Greg St Suite 102, Sparks, NV 89431
7. Nevada State Library and Archives, 100 N. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701
8. Desert Regional Center, 1391 So. Jones Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146

9. Sierra Regional Center, 605 South 21st St., Reno, NV 89431
10. Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center, 1865 Plumas St #2, Reno, NV 89509
11. Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living, 999 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV 89431
12. NV Community Enrichment Programs, 2820 W. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146
13. Department of Health and Human Services, 4126 Technology Way, Carson City, NV 89706
14. Washoe ARC, 790 Sutro, Reno, NV 89512
15. Rehabilitation Division, 1370 S. Curry St., Carson City, NV 89703
16. Vocational Rehabilitation Job Connect, 1325 Corporate Blvd., Reno, NV 89502

Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet: <http://www.adsd.nv.gov> and <https://notice.nv.gov> |